

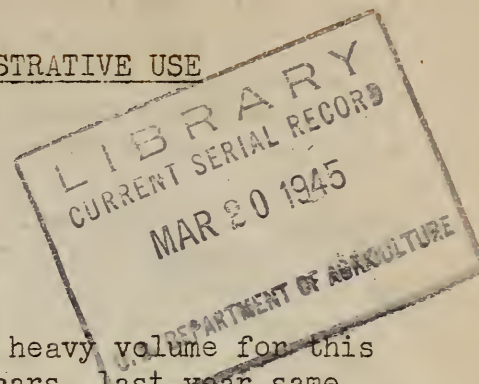
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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Marketing Services
Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
San Francisco 3, California
Western Region

FOR ADMINISTRATIVE USE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS
Week ending December 30, 1944



FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes - Rail movement past week from Idaho continued in heavy volume for this season of the year. Idaho total to date this year 20,306 cars, last year same date 20,242 cars. Total U.S. shipments this year to date 172,179 cars, last year same date 185,345 cars.

December first revised production estimates indicate the total U.S. late potato crop to be 379,436,000 bushels, and for the Western Region 91,949,000 bushels. The 1943 figures are 464,656,000 bushels and 103,268,000 bushels respectively, and the 1933 to 1942 averages are 362,912,000 bushels and 68,473,000 bushels.

Idaho Falls f.o.b. prices, U.S. #1 closed the week at \$2.49 per 100 pounds, U.S. #1 size A \$2.59 per 100 pounds. Wholesale prices on the western markets, Russets ranged \$3.27 to \$3.75 per cwt, Klamaths ranged \$3.20 to \$3.56 and long whites \$3.50 to \$3.83 per cwt.

Carrots - Past weeks shipments totaled 271 cars of bunched stock, and the previous week 187 cars. Total U.S. carlot movement for the season 3,501 cars, last season 2,454 cars. Prices f.o.b. Phoenix and Yuma mostly \$2.75 per crate of six dozen bunches. Wholesale prices \$3.75 to \$4.25 per crate of six dozen bunches.

Cauliflower - Season's total shipments to date for the U.S. 3,354 cars, last season 2,683 cars. Shipments declined the past week as did prices. Wholesale markets in California quoted "flower" at \$1.25 to \$1.75 per crate; in the Northwest prices were \$2.25 to \$3.00.

Apples - A short week and holiday schedules again resulted in fewer cars moving to market, 39.6 percent under the previous week. Total U.S. shipments to date this season 33,635 cars, last season same date 21,625 cars.

Little change in wholesale market prices from those of the previous week, although the range was wider for Fancy and Extra Fancy stock, mostly \$3.65 to \$3.83 for Delicious, Rome Beauty, Spitzenberg, Newtown and Winesap.

Oranges - Wholesale prices on the western markets made relatively little change from the ceiling prices of the week previous. Receipts were down to 1,062 cars for the Western Region, and to 1,163 for the U.S. Total U.S. carlot movement this season to date 21,866 cars, last season 22,530 cars.

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Production and receipts continued low during the past week with the west coast about 17 percent under the same period last year. Continued wet weather, favorable to good pasture conditions in the West, is expected to increase the availability of butterfat within the next two weeks. Demand during the past week on all the markets of the west coast remained greatly above available supplies.

Eggs - Although there was a noticeable upturn in production and receipts over the past week, demand for all grades of eggs, including storage stocks, was in excess of supplies on the western markets. Eastern markets were not so hard pressed, yet the pre-holiday demand and unfavorable weather in some of the producing areas made supplies shorter there than for the previous week.

Poultry - All wholesale markets reflected insufficient supplies to meet the pre-holiday demand on all classes of poultry. However, the demand was not as strong as prior to Christmas. There does not appear to be the rate of flock culling anticipated earlier in the season and processors are finding it difficult to maintain their dressing crews to take care of expected increases in receipts during the first part of January. Prices remain at the full allowable ceilings.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

B.A.E. estimates the meat output in 1945 will be at least 2 billion pounds less than the 1944 output. There will be more beef and veal, but less pork, lamb and mutton.

Cattle - Receipts on four western markets past week 12,342 head, 42 percent under the previous week, and the twelve principal markets received but 137,600 head, 35 percent below receipts for the week previous.

Top prices on western wholesale markets ranged \$13.50 to \$15.75 at the close of the week.

Hogs - Support weight hogs brought increased prices, up to ceilings at the close of the week. However, receipts declined to 10,251 head, 41 percent of the previous week, on the western markets, and on the twelve principal markets 34 percent less to 228,800 head, 55.6 percent below receipts for the same week a year ago.

Sheep - Receipts on the twelve principal markets past week totaled 145,900 head, 45 percent below the previous week and 26 percent below the same week a year ago. On the four western markets receipts were down to 11,170 head, 39.5 percent below the previous week.

Western wholesale top prices averaged slightly higher than the week previous but ranged \$14.00 to \$14.75 per cwt.

Wool - The Wool Purchase Program, as announced by the WFA for 1945, essentially a continuation of the marketing plan for domestic wools in effect since April 25, 1943, will become effective January 1, 1945, and will apply to domestic wools offered to WFA and appraised by June 30, 1946. The value of wool purchased under the program is to be determined on the results of official appraisals.

COTTON

The following is from the Crop Reporting Board report for December, 1944.

	Acreage harvested			Production (ginnings)		
	Thousand acres			Thousand bales (500 lbs. each)		
	1933-42	1943	1944	1933-42	1943	1944
Arizona	203	202	147	182	131	142
California	336	289	301	411	341	325
United States)	26,389	21,652	20,098	12,455	11,427	12,359

The ratio of cottonseed to lint for the 1944 crop is now estimated at 62.5 pounds of seed to each 37.5 pound of lint, 1943 ratio was 63.1 to 36.9, a reflection on 1944 staple quality.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Wheat - The following production figures for the nine western states compared with those of the United States are interesting from the standpoint of increased production:

Acreage seeded for all purposes					Production			
1933-42	1943	1944	1945	1933-42	1943	1944	1945	
thousand acres					thousand bushels			
Western								
Region	5,174	4,748	5,417	5,844	90,833	87,552	120,971	116,311
U.S.	47,459	37,782	46,349	49,589	570,675	531,481	764,073	761,591

The 1944 crop from the Western Region constitutes 15.8 percent of the U.S. crop, while the indicated 1945 crop for the Western Region is 96 percent of the 1944 figure and 15.2 percent of the indicated 1945 U.S. crop.

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